



OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Senator Douglas McCrory
Representative Jeffrey Currey
Members of the Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106

Greetings,

Chairmen McCrory and Currey, Ranking Members McCarty and Berthel and distinguished members of the Education Committee. My name is Jan Perruccio, and I am the Superintendent of Old Saybrook Public Schools and Co-Chair of the CAPSS Legislative Committee today, I share my comments about **Senate Bill 1094, An Act Concerning The Implementation of Reading Models or Programs.**

Achievement in early reading is the most important indicator of success for students. Specifically, reading by grade 1 and reading independently by grade 3 are described as the best way to keep students engaged in school and to move them towards successful completion of high school and beyond. That is why I support the tenets of the science of reading and the spirit of PA 10 section 14hh and bill no 1094, which provides the time needed to create or modify reading curriculum that includes all of the components of: reading comprehension, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary and fluency and I want to lend my support to the idea of creating a small work group to work over the next months to extend the work of the CSDE and its partners who met over the last twelve months to develop best practices, create curricular frameworks and identify optimal professional development for teachers and leaders to maximize the benefits of reading instruction based on the science of reading.

This working group and request for additional time will allow educators to:

- Pilot and adopt new programs if necessary, based on the needs of the students in their schools. My community has a growing multi-lingual student population and we would want to find a program or modify a current program to serve the needs of that demographic in order to improve their reading skills.

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"The mission of the Old Saybrook Public Schools is to educate and prepare students to achieve their highest aspirations, care for others and the environment, and contribute to a global society by working in partnership with families and the community, and by engaging each learner in a rigorous, personalized, and meaningful educational program."

- Train teachers and administrators and provide the considerable professional development needed if a new program is adopted
- Modify or add to the existing reading programs if gaps exist in any of the reading competencies
- Write curriculum to codify the practices in place or improve upon them, practices that can work to the framework created by a small but representative working group
- Identify staffing needs: interventionists, reading specialists and tutors

There is no commercial program that will serve the demographics and unique reading learning needs of all students in every district. The professional educators who work with these children personalize the work so that all students can be successful. This means that highly trained teachers and administrators must closely examine materials with their children in mind.

All children will be best served if educators receive guidelines, curricular frameworks, training and time to implement the best possible instruction for the children they are teaching. A small, talented and diverse working group can get the essential foundation work done so that districts can build from there.

Sincerely,

Perruccio